The Spark Gap

APRIL 1985

Vol X Book IV

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Boston Marathon

This month's big activity is the Boston Marathon. As we have for the past several years, the W.A.R.S. provide communications assistance for a variety of purposes during the marathon. There will be some changes this year however.

Because of a recent FCC ruling, the race timing can no longer be done on Amateur frequencies. This net will be moved to the commercial bands but there is still a need for experienced operators as in the past. If you are involved in this net, radio equipment will be provided for you. There is still a need for operations on the Amateur bands for health and safety purposes. This net will be kept completely separate from the other one and will require each operator to provide his own equipment.

The marathon is one of the most exciting events we have the chance to take part in each year. If you would like to participate in any portion of it, contact Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, for more details. His phone number is 837-6423.

FIELD DAY!

It is also time to begin planning for Field Day '85. Where do you want to go this year? The town hall site has worked very well the last several years and is quite convenient. Does everyone want to return there this year? Think about it, and we will discuss it at the meetings this month.

Hearabouts....

by Bob Drapeau, KT1K

I am pleased to announce Wellesley will soon have its own full time digipeater operating from the campus of Babson College. This repeater has been made possible with the assistance of the Babson Public Safety Department both in location and funding of the GLB PK-1 packet board and antenna. KT1K has donated use of a 20 amp power supply and 2 meter Icom IC-25H.

Installation should be completed within a month and testing will be conducted under the call KT1K-1. After all the bugs have been worked out operation will be under W1TKZ-1.

During testing it would be appreciated if several stations conducted tests with regard to coverage and reliability. Exact dates of testing will be announced when available.

Help is needed for a circuit to shut down transmissions if the radio malfunctions. A watch dog circuit for the board has been ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Our speaker April 4 we be Kitty Hevener, WB8TDA, from ARRL Headquarters. Kitty, a former Eastern Mass. resident, has a number of duties at ARRL including QST's Washington Mailbox column, coordinating the disabled persons programs and information on cable TVI, legal and regulatory issues. Kitty will speak on current ARRL and FCC happenings and will answer questions about current issues.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

April 4, 1985, at 7:30 p.m.
April 18, 1985, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

"New Tickets"

Congratulations to Dick Blaha, KA1LQQ, who upgraded to Technician in mid-March. Dick plans to stick with his current callsign, at least for now, and go for his General in April. Good luck on the General, Dick! Also, congratulations to Dan Brevik, ex-KA1MKA on his new callsign KB1RN and new Extra class license.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

This month we would like to welcome Rob Zakon, W1NVW, into the club. Rob has been inactive for a few years and is very eager to get active again and upgrade from his current Technician class license. He is also planning on getting on 2 meters soon, so if you hear him on the repeater say hello. Welcome to the club, Rob.

ARRL

Are you an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) member? Well, you should be! There is probably no ham in the U.S. who has not been helped out in some way by the ARRL. Consider what they have to offer: study guides, on-the-air code practice and bulletins, QST magazine, largest Volunteer Exam Coordinator, outgoing DX QSL bureau, call directory, ARRL Handbook, contest sponsor, equipment insurance program, and on and on. Even more important, the ARRL is our voice in Washington. Other individuals and groups may voice strong opinions, but the ARRL is our only representative before the government and FCC. Because our hobby is government licensed and controlled, having a representative with our interests is vital! With all the pressure to take away our bands for commercial use, the ARRL has successfully lobbied for us.

Yet, despite this less than half of all licensed Amateurs in the U.S. are ARRL members. We need the ARRL and if you care about the continued existance of our hobby you should be an ARRL supporter. Many people complain tha QST is not that good a magazine. Well, you shouldn't think of your ARF membership as just a magazine subscription.

One direct benefit that we as an ARRL affiliated club get is a $2 rebate on the ARRL dues of each member who pays through W.A.R.S. This year, ARRL has started a program to encourage new members, and for each one we sign up, W.A.R.S. gets a $5 rebate. There are also various awards available to our club when we sign up certain numbers of new ARRL members. Thus there has never been a better time to join ARRL.

Please seriously consider ARRL membership. If you do wish to join or renew, remember the club rebate and send a check for $25 made out to W.A.R.S. to C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 48 Hale Street, Newton, MA 02164. If you send your dues direct to ARRL, please mark the form with "Wellesley Amateur Radio Society #0077" so that W.A.R.S will still get the rebate.

OFFICERS

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STATION MANAGER:
Bob Drapeau, KT1K, 883-1132
REPEATER COMMITTEE:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR:

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

MINUTES

Meeting of February 21, 1985:

Meeting opened at 7:50 p.m. by K1UR.

Secretary's report accepted.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Message Fair report - 68 messages originated. We are already working on a Christmas Message Fair.

Station Manager - KT1K - Reported he is looking for a 40m - 10m vertical for the club.

Our auction is March 30.

Reminder of June VHF contest.

There is a new ARRL pitch to get new members. They are offering awards to clubs that recruit certain amounts of new League members, please sign up if you aren't already through W.A.R.S.

The Wellesley College race, Sunday, April 28. Art Thompson, KA1ENP, is coordinating it. Please contact him at 235-5509 if you can help out.

Meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

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Meeting of March 7, 1985:

Meeting opened at 7:33 p.m. by K1UR.

Secretary's report accepted.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Station Manager's report: Vertical ordered for club, should have it in a week or so. Bob proudly announced a new packet radio digipeater to be installed at Babson College. Babson has provided both the funds and the location for this installation, and we all thank them. It was announced that the call of the digipeater will be KT1K-1 until the bugs have been worked out after which time it will be W1TKZ-1.

We had introductions. Dan Brevik, ex-KA1MKA, is now KB1RN (late word has it that Dan passed his Extra and presumably another call change is likely). There were 19 in attendance for introductions.

K1OGF - Erik asked if there was any interest in ACSB (Amplitude Compandored Sideband). Contact Erik for information.

WA1ZLQ - Dick asked for people to sign up to participate in the BAA Boston Marathon. Contact Dick if you are interested.

Meeting closed at 7:55 p.m. for a demo on Packet Radio.

Hamnews

"The DCE on UoSAT/OSCAR-11 successfully demonstrated digital message 'store & forward' techniques for the first time last week [actually in mid-January--ed.] with exchanges between UoSAT, NK6K (LA) and WH6AMX / WA3ZIA / VE3FLL in Hawaii - at the Pacific Telecommunications Conference held in Honolulu. Despite very poor weather in Hawaii making portable demonstrations difficult, messages were exchanged on 16 January..." Thanks Amateur Satellite Report.

Westlink Report, February 22, 1985

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 12, dated February 11, 1985:

The ARRL has filed a motion for interim operating authority in Docket 85-23, the microwave access docket, asking FCC to authorize Mode L earth operation while the docket is being considered. FCC staffers promise to look at the matter as soon as possible.

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Number 16, dated February 21, 1985:

In response to a petition filed by ARRL, FCC has issued an order lifting the moratorium on new repeater operation imposed in NPRM 85-22. The order states that FCC will instead seek permanent solutions to repeater problems in this proceeding.

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Number 17, dated March 1, 1985:

FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making concerning cable television. The NPRM, designated MM Docket 85-38, asks for comments as to whether the home subscriber quality standards are still important, and comments as to whether signal leakage limits are still required. The NPRM proposes to increase the cable TV leakage limit from 20 microvolts per meter at 10 feet to 50 microvolts per meter at 3 meters. Comments in this NPRM are due by March 29, 1985. Most useful type of comments would be those incorporating test data and measurements of leakage which has caused interference to the Amateur Service.

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Number 18, dated March 4, 1985:

The FCC has released an NPRM concerning third party participation in Amateur communications. The Commission proposes to amend Part 97 to prohibit participation by any Amateur whose license has been revoked, suspended or canceled. The FCC states in the proposal that persons whose Amateur privileges have been terminated have taken advantage of the third party rule by participating in communications from stations licensed to Amateurs in good standing. The proposal also calls for sanctions for an Amateur licensee who knowingly allows a disqualified person to participat in third party communications. The NPRM is designated Docket 85-51. Comments are due by May 14, 1985, reply comments by June 17, 1985.

Auctions/Flea Markets

April 14: Framingham A.R.A. spring flea market, held at the Framingham Civic League Building, 214 Concord Street (Route 126), Framingham. Set up starts at 8:30 a.m. and the doors open at 10:00 a.m. Admission is $2 and talk-in is on 147.75/15. Food available. For more information, contact Jon at 877-7166.

April 21: South Shore A.R.C. flea market, held at the Viking Club, 410 Quincy Avenue (Route 53), East Braintree (next to the Quintree Mall). Set up starts at 9:30 a.m. and the doors open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is $1. For more information, call Ed Doherty, W1MPT, at 843-4431.

April 27: Montachusett A.R.A. flea market, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 165 Electric Avenue, Fitchburg, Mass. Take Route 2 to South Street exit (Twin City Plaza), then north on South Street to traffic light on Electric Avenue, then left and look for K of C on left. K of C Hall is about 1.5 miles from Route 2. Admission is $1, tables $8. Free parking, refreshments. Doors open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and talk-in is on 144.85/145.45 and 146.52.

May 5: Hampden County Radio Association Flea Market at the West Springfield Elks Lodge. Take Mass Pike to West Springfield, exit 4, then 1/2 mile south on Route 5. Turn right at Abdow's Restaurant onto Morgan Road. The Elk's Lodge is 3/4 mile on the left. Admission is $1.00, tables are $3.00. Times are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and food is available. Contact Paul Kress, WA1ZKT, 413-568-8291.

ELECTRONICS EXCHANGE

The Capacitor, Pike County ARC
via Worldradio

The following is a partial list of the items carried in stock by B&M Electronics.

1) For those who have trouble blowing fuses, we have 30 amp fuses marked 3 amps.

2) Antenna tower holes--We have these in assorted sizes and depths. Why dig when you can buy a ready-made hole? NOTICE: We have improved the design on some of these by threading them. Now if you have to move, you can unscrew them and take them along. Millions of small holes have been sold to golf courses.

3) Antenna grease--One application is all that is needed. Standing waves ar lucky if they can hang on laying down.

) Everett Dirksen Lozenges--A fine product that makes SSB sound like AM. These lozenges provide a golden voice, compared to the silver voice of Williams Jennings Bryan Lozenges sold by our competitors.

5) Smoke signal kit--This kit will modify any transceiver so that it will send smoke signals. Herschel Russel Jr., WA9ABE, used one of these on Field Day, loading his Drake TR3 on 40 meters into a 20 meter antenna.

No trade-ins. Cash on the barrel head. Call for prices.

STATION ACTIVITIES

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

Announcing the new Eastern Mass./ Rhode Island Slow Speed Phone Net (EMRISSPN)! The purpose of this net is to help newcomers to the phone band im ove their sending and receiving sp ed while also learning to properly handle traffic. This will also provide a feeder system for the high speed EMRIPN. The net is held daily on 3.999 MHz at 0800 UTC. Approximate operating speed is 10 wpm but is adjusted according to the skill of the people checking in. Don't be afraid to check in even if you can copy phone only at 5 wpm, the net control will slow down for you! For more information, contact WB1TBY.

Hamnews

A number of ARRL members have reported to us that some Amateur stations in their area have recently been inspected by FCC personnel. The members have expressed concern that FCC might be preparing to change its Amateur power limits. ARRL Washington Area Coordinator Perry Williams, W1UED, visited a senior official in the Field Operations Bureau to discuss the situation. The FOB had taken measurements at 172 Amateur stations, completing this phase by February 25. Objectives were to discover whether Amateurs can reduce power; what levels most Amateurs use; what effects a 50% reduction in power has on a QSO in progress; and whether there is a general awareness and compliance with Section 97.67(a) of the Amateur Rules which mandates use of the minimum power necessary for the communications in progress.

Williams told the official of Amateur's fears that this study was a prelude to a rule making which would reduce the power limit. The spokesman said "That would not be reasonable. There are conditions where full power is needed." The FOB official was not sure exactly what the data will be used for; perhaps FOB would use the information to persuade individual Amateurs to temporarily use less power where there is a reported case of Amateur interference to neighbors. The FOB official told W1UED that he believed the results of the study would be available in early summer.

ARRL Letter, March 14, 1985

FROM THE MAILBAG

The main topic of discussion at a recent meeting of Amateur Radio manufacturers, distributers and publishers (including ARRL) in Miami was how we could do more to attract people into Amateur Radio. During the past couple of years the number of Amateurs has remained almost at the same level, after a period of growth beginning around 1975 when the number of licensees went from 260,000 to 410,000.

With continuing pressure from other users of the radio spectrum (commercial and government), Amateur Radio has to show steady growth in order to keep our relatively large amount of valuable spectrum in the future. With that in mind we have to focus on analyzing what we can do to attract new people into Amateur Radio. The first place to look is at our entry-level step, the Novice license.

How attractive is the Novice license to someone wanting to become an Amateur Radio operator? When you describe Amateur Radio to a non-ham do you talk about Morse code on 40 meters or do you talk about satellite QSOs, packet radio experimentation, or talking to someone aboard the space shuttle? The Novice license doesn't offer enough of that kind of excitement to attract newcomers to Amateur Radio in these days of personal computing and high technology. The beginner's license should offer several different flavors of Amateur Radio.

Twenty years ago a Novice was allowed phone privileges on two meters, today only HF cw is allowed. When a Novice gets on the air today, he/she is as likely to talk with someone several hundred miles away, than in the same town. That means less chance to get to know someone locally who can help with questions or even to find out about local license upgrading opportunities. Today a Novice isn't allowed to make RTTY or packet radio QSOs, though RTTY was possible several years ago.

One of the main points raised at that meeting in Miami was the Novic license needs to be more attractive. Two ideas most often mentioned wer the opening of one VHF/UHF band to Novice voice operation (perhaps 220 MHz) and the possibility of digital operating privileges (RTTY/packet). These were preliminary "brain-storming" sessions, and more careful thought needs to be put into it.

Though it is hard to predict, by the July meeting of the ARRL Directors there will probably be a proposal to ask the FCC for increased Novice privileges. Just what will be asked for will depend upon your comments during the next few months. Take a few minutes to think about and talk about the present Novice license privileges, and let us know what you think!

73, Tom Frenaye, K1KI
ARRL Director

Hamnews

The FCC has amended its environ mental rules to provide for evaluation of human exposure to RF. This acti was taken in response to General Docket 79-144, and is something the ARRL Committee on the Bio-Effects of RF Energy has been working for over six years.

The only information available is an FCC News Releast dated March 13. According to this, the new rule will apply to radio and TV broadcast stations, experimental broadcast stations, low-power TV stations, transmitting satellite-earth stations, and experimental radio stations.

It has been proposed to exempt other FCC regulated operations. Exemptions from this rule would be made because of a lack of evidence that these services would affect the environment significantly with respect to human exposure to RF radiation. ARRL is already on record as having requested that Amateur Radio be exempted.

ARRL Letter, March 14, 198

It Seems to Me...

The repeater continues to run and it is still time to say thanks for all those that donated so that we could have it. We want to thank the following people who donated money to the repeater fund and helped buy the duplexers:

Art Thompson	KA1ENP
John Taylor	N1CPF
Nels Anderson	K1UR
Tom Kinahan	N1CPE
Alan Bacon	K1BA
John Sangster	W3IKG
C.J.McDonald	WB1BUM
Bob Drapeau	KT1K
Pete Bradley	N1ADX
George Joubert	KA1JIP
Hank Ostrowski	VE3CGL/W1
Ken McNair	N1DEZ
Mort Cohan	KA1IU
Rita Baker	N1DDI
Ken Dono	KQ1W
Georges Vedie	KA1LQO
John O'Brien	N1AWX
Eric Thoreson	K1OGF
Roger Smith	W1EOA
Skid Schermerhorn	W1TTY
Dave McClellan	N1DFP

In addition, we wish also to acknowledge recent repeater fund donations from:

Arnie Adelman	W1GCI
Rick Procopio	N1CZT
Dave McClellan	N1DFP
John O'Brien	N1AWX

Thanks everbody and see you all on '03.

STATION ACTIVITIES

by Bob Drapeau, KT1K

My dream is to work a 5 band Worked All States using my Kenwood barefoot into my vertical antenna or dipole. Mort, KA1IU, gave me some great advice with regard to 75 meter WAS. So good, in fact, that I intend to share it.

Each evening at 0200Z (9:00 p.m.) check-ins start for the Century Club Net on 3.903 MHz. The purpose of the net is to provide Amateurs interested in Worked All States, or any other awards, frequencies and opportunity to make contacts. But does it work, you ask? YES. I've been checking in on and off since December and have worked 49 states and missed a confirmed contact with number 50 twice (Hawaii). Remember I am using about 150 watts to a simple dipole, off my roof about 20 feet in the air.

Next question: "But can you get the QSLs?" The Century Club runs their own QSL Bureau. This whole operation is very, very efficient. Most of my cards have turned around in less than three weeks.

Now even better news....the Century Club runs several different nets:

Daily	3.903 SSB	0200-0600Z
Wednesday	3.705 CW	0200-0600Z
Daily	7.233 SSB	0100-0500Z

Every night except Sunday there is both a 75 and 40 meter late net that begins at the closing of the regular net and continues for about three more hours. The Century Club also has a net on 160 meters one night a week, but I do not have current information.

Information regarding all nets, awards, and QSL bureaus can be obtained from the club by sending an SASE with two units of postage to: Ray Grant, WA4SGP, 523 Glenpark Drive, Nashville, TN 37217.

I still think I can make Hawaii with my current station....

Hamnews

Brunei's first ambassador to the United States is a ham. The newly appointed diplomat is Pengiran Haji Idriss, VP5PM. He is a member of Brunei's royal family and has served in that nation's diplomatic corps since 1980. Before coming to Washington, VP5PM served as Brunei's High Commissioner in Singapore and London.

Westlink Report, February 22, 1985

The Spark Gap

WELLESLEY
AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY

211 Washington Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

FIRST CLASS MAIL

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB